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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,634	12/05/2001	Anthony E. Bolton	033136-226	1971

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12/30/2005

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EXAMINER

BELYAVSKYI, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1644

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,634

Applicant(s)

BOLTON ET AL.

Examiner

Michail A. Belyavskyi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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RESPONSE TO APPLICANT'S AMENDMENT

1. Applicant's amendment, filed 10/11/05 is acknowledged.

Claims 19-25 are pending.

The following new ground of rejections are necessitated by the amendment filed 10/11/05

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 00/06703.

WO '703 teaches a method of treating GVHD in a mammalian patient comprises administering to the patient stressed mammalian blood cells (see the entire document Abstract in particular). The WO '703 teaches that stress blood cells have been extracting from the patient an aliquot of blood of volume, contacting the aliquot of blood, extracorporeally subject to at both oxidative conditions, ultraviolet radiation and heat stress simultaneously. (see overlapping pages 5-6 and 7 in particular). The WO '703 teaches that oxidative environment, such as a mixture of ozone, wherein an ozone content from about 1 to about 100 µg/ml and oxygen bubbled through the blood aliquot, from about 0.5 to 60 min (pages 7 and 9, in particular). The WO '703 teaches that the temperature stressor is in a range from about 40 to about 55° C (see pages 8 and 11 in particular). The WO '703 teaches that UV stressor is UV-c radiation (see page 8 in particular). Wherein the patient is human and the aliquot of modified mammalian blood is the patient's own blood, of volume from about 0.1- 500 ml (page 7, in particular).

It is noted that WO '703 does not explicitly teaches a method of decreasing expression of one or more inflammatory cytokines selected from the group of IFN-γ and IL-6, comprising administering to the patient stressed mammalian blood cells. However, it is noted that the instant claims and the referenced method both administered the same stressed mammalian blood cells and thus it does not appear that the claim language or limitations result in a manipulative difference in the method steps when compared to the prior art disclosure. See Bristol-Myers Squibb Company v. Ben Venue Laboratories 58 USPQ2d 1508 (CAFC 2001). “{i}t is a general rule that merely discovering and claiming a new benefit of an old process cannot render the process again patentable”. In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990). The

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mechanism of action does not have a bearing on the patentability of the invention if the invention was already known or obvious. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. For example in *Atlas Powder Co. V. IRECO*, 51 USPQ2d 1943 (Fed. Cir. 1999); the following was noted. "Artisans of ordinary skill may not recognize the inherent characteristics or functioning of the prior art. However, the discovery of a previously unappreciated property of a prior art composition, or of a scientific explanation for the prior art's functioning, does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer." The Court further held that "this same reasoning holds true when it is not a property but an ingredient which is inherently contained in the prior art". See MPEP 2112.02. Also, see *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Ben Venue Laboratories, Inc.* 58 USPQ2d 1508 (CA FC 2001); *Ex parte Novitski* 26 USPQ 1389 (BPAI 1993); *Mehl/Biophile International Corp. V. Milgram*, 52 USPQ2d 1303 (Fed. Cir. 1999); *Atlas Powder Co. V. IRECO*, 51 USPQ2d 1943 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Mere recognition of latent properties in the prior art does not render nonobvious an otherwise known invention. *In re Wiseman*, 201 USPQ 658 (CCPA 1979). Granting a patent on the discovery of an unknown but inherent function would remove from the public that which is in the public domain by virtue of its inclusion in, or obviousness from, the prior art. *In re Baxter Travenol Labs*, 21 USPQ2d 1281 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See M.P.E.P. 2145.

The reference teaching anticipates the claimed invention.

4. Claims 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 98/07436 or US Patent 5,980,954.

The WO ' 436 teaches a method of treating an inflammatory disease including inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian patient comprises administering to the patient stressed mammalian blood cells (see the entire document, pages 1, 17, and 23 in particular). The WO ' 436 teaches that stress blood cells have been extracting from the patient an aliquot of blood of volume, contacting the aliquot of blood, extracorporeally subject to at both oxidative conditions, ultraviolet radiation and heat stress simultaneously. (see overlapping pages 13-14 and 16-17 in particular). The WO ' 436 teaches that oxidative environment, such as a mixture of ozone, wherein an ozone content from about 1.0 to about 100 µg/ml and oxygen bubbled through the blood aliquot, from about 0.5 to 60 min (pages 14-15, in particular). The WO ' 436 teaches that the temperature stressor is in a range from about 40 to about 55° C (see page 14 in particular). The WO ' 436 teaches that UV stressor is UV-c radiation (see page 15 in particular). Wherein the patient is human (page 8, paragraph 3 in particular), and the aliquot of modified mammalian blood is the patient's own blood (page 12, paragraph 4 in particular), of volume from about 0.01-400 ml (pages 8, 13, in particular).

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The US Patent '954 teaches a method of treating an inflammatory disease including inflammatory bowel disease and rheumatoid arthritis in a mammalian patient comprises administering to the patient stressed mammalian blood cells (see the entire document, column 1, and overlapping columns 7 –8 in particular). The US Patent '954 teaches that stress blood cells have been extracting from the patient an aliquot of blood of volume, contacting the aliquot of blood, extracorporeally subject to at both oxidative conditions, ultraviolet radiation and heat stress simultaneously. (see column 6, in particular). The US Patent '954 teaches that oxidative environment, such as a mixture of ozone, wherein an ozone content from about 0.5 to about 100 µg/ml and oxygen bubbled through the blood aliquot, from about 0.5 to 60 min (see overlapping columns 7-8 and Claim 5 in particular). US Patent' 954 teaches that the temperature stressor is in a range from about 37 to about 55° C (see column 7 and claim 4 in particular). The US Patent '954 teaches that UV stressor is UV-c radiation (see column 8 in particular). Wherein the patient is human, and the aliquot of modified mammalian blood is the patient's own blood of volume from about 0.01-400 ml (column 9 and claim 2 in particular).

It is noted that WO ' 436 or US Patent '954 does not explicitly teaches a method of decreasing expression of one or more inflammatory cytokines selected from the group of IFN-γ and IL-6, comprising administering to the patient stressed mammalian blood cells. However, it is noted that the instant claims and the referenced method both administered the same stressed mammalian blood cells and thus it does not appear that the claim language or limitations result in a manipulative difference in the method steps when compared to the prior art disclosure. See Bristol-Myers Squibb Company v. Ben Venue Laboratories 58 USPQ2d 1508 (CAFC 2001).

“{i}t is a general rule that merely discovering and claiming a new benefit of an old process cannot render the process again patentable”. In re Woodruff, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990). The mechanism of action does not have a bearing on the patentability of the invention if the invention was already known or obvious. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. For example in Atlas Powder Co. V. IRECO, 51 USPQ2d 1943 (Fed. Cir. 1999); the following was noted. “Artisans of ordinary skill may not recognize the inherent characteristics or functioning of the prior art. However, the discovery of a previously unappreciated property of a prior art composition, or of a scientific explanation for the prior art's functioning, does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer. “ The Court further held that “this same reasoning holds true when it is not a property but an ingredient which is inherently contained in the prior art”. See MPEP 2112.02. Also, see Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Ben Venue Laboratories, Inc. 58 USPQ2d 1508 (CA FC 2001); Ex parte Novitski 26 USPQ 1389 (BPAI 1993); Mehl/Biophile International Corp. V. Milgraum, 52 USPQ2d 1303 (Fed. Cir. 1999); Atlas Powder Co. V. IRECO, 51 USPQ2d 1943 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Mere recognition of latent properties in the prior art does not render nonobvious an otherwise known invention. In re Wiseman, 201 USPQ 658 (CCPA 1979). Granting a patent on the discovery of an unknown but inherent function would remove from the public that which is in the public domain by virtue of its inclusion in, or obviousness from, the prior art. In re Baxter Travenol Labs, 21 USPQ2d 1281 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See M.P.E.P. 2145.

The reference teaching anticipates the claimed invention.

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5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 19-25 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 5,980,954. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 5,980,954 recites a method of treating a mammalian patient, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of stressed blood cells, wherein said blood cells have been subjected to stress comprising oxidative condition and an ultraviolet stressor, or wherein the ozone content in the gas mixture is from 0.5 –100 µg/ml; or wherein ultraviolet stressor is UV-C; or wherein the temperature range from about 37 to about 55° C, or wherein the stressed blood cell comprise a volume of the whole blood from about 0.1 to 400ml.

Though claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 5,980,954 does not explicitly recited a method of decreasing expression of one or more inflammatory cytokines selected from the group of IFN-γ and IL-6, said functional properties would be an inherent properties of the method recited in claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 5,980,954, because the method recited in the instant claims and the referenced method both comprising of administering the same treatment to the same patients in the absence of evidence of structural difference. Under the principles of inherency, if a prior art method, in its normal and usual operation, would necessarily perform the method claimed, then the method claimed will be considered to be anticipated by the prior art. When the prior art method is the same as a method described in the specification, it can be assumed the method will inherently perform the claimed process. See MPEP 2112.02.

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7. No claim is allowed

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

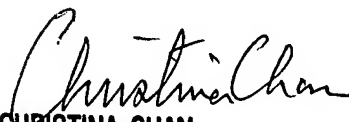
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michail Belyavskyi whose telephone number is 571/ 272-0840. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 571/ 272-0841.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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December 27, 2005


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